



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!



The Swallowtail Federation

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November 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

Welcome to our November newsletter!

The capital letter 'C' word is certainly on the tip of the tongues of all in the school community. A personal favourite for me is hearing the nativity songs and carols being rehearsed and travelling through the walls of the schools. We really look forward to welcoming families in to join in all the festivities. Please do keep an eye on communication around dates, times and arrangements for these events.

Abby Blake took on role as assistant head this year, as part of this, she is focusing on attendance, ensuring we maintain high expectations and making sure 'everyday counts'. Abby will be in contact with families where attendance has dropped, to provide support. Thank you for your positive input into this, collaboration will always have the biggest impact.

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...



Attendance YTD Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 95.69%

Cheetahs: 95.14%

Panthers: 95.27%

Well done Lions!



Message from Miss Amis

We have a lot of exciting events coming up on the run up to Christmas. Please make sure you have them in your diaries and reminders set up on your phones if you can. I always try to send out an email reminder but as the chaos of Christmas begins, I may miss something!

Thursday 27th November - Federation day at Catfield. Home packed and school packed lunches only. We will be watching the Aladdin Pantomime in school. Please could I ask you to vacate the car park promptly on this morning as Hickling and Sutton children will be arriving shortly after Catfield.

Friday 28th November - Christmas craft morning. We will have our usual Family Worship 8:50am-9:05am followed by our Christmas craft morning where we invite you to stay with us until 10:30am and help to make Christmas decorations for our classrooms.

Monday 1st December - 9am Christingle in Church. Please could I ask you to park in the car park and walk down to the church to ensure the safety of our children.

Monday 8th December - Deadline for Christmas card competition entries. Please ensure they are handed to me.

Thursday 11th December - Christmas Jumper day. We invite children to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper with their school trousers/skirts. If you would like to make a donation to Save the Children, please do this online via their website.

Thursday 11th December - 9:15am Nativity Performance. Please arrive via the front entrance where you will be signed in.

Thursday 11th December - 6pm KS2 Carol concert. Mrs Smithson will be in contact with more details shortly.

Friday 12th December - 2:40pm Nativity performance. Please arrive via the front entrance where you will be signed in.

Thursday 18th December - 3:20pm - 5:15pm Movie Night. Children are allowed to bring blankets, cushion and cuddly teddy to have during movie night. Please ensure these are in a named bag.

Friday 19th December - 9am Christmas Church service. Please park at the school and walk to the church.

Phew!! We look forward to seeing you at all of our events!

Regards,
Miss Amis

Diary dates continued

November:

25th	KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
27th	Federation day—Pantomime
27th	Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
28th	Christmas craft event 9am-10.30am

December:

1st	Christingle at Catfield Church 9am
2nd	KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
4th	Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
9th	KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
10th	Nativity dress rehearsal
11th	Christmas Jumper Day and Nativity performance 9.15am
11th	Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm and KS2 Carol Concert at Catfield Church 6pm
12th	Nativity performance 2.40pm
16th	Christmas Quiz fundraiser 3.20pm-4.20pm
18th	Christmas Movie Night 3.20pm-5.15pm
19th	Christmas service at Catfield church 9am and Last day of term
6th January 2026	Children return to school

This Month's Curriculum Focus: EYFS & Phonics

Our EYFS classes are set up to support learning across all areas. We have provision within the classroom which covers reading, maths, writing, role play, construction, water, sand and creative play. This allows our children to access learning in all areas at all times.

We are continuing our CUSP planning to lead our Structured Story time sessions. These sessions focus on a high quality book, looking at new vocabulary and a diverse range of characters. We link these to topics and events throughout the year such as Diwali, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Our books leading up to Christmas include: Pumpkin Soup, Stickman, Clean Up and Percy the Post Penguin.

To support development of our children's gross and fine motor skills, our EYFS children take part in Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle 4 times a week. This is where there is focus on a specific big movement each week, supporting the development of children's core muscles which then helps their fine motor skills that they need for writing. Our children love dancing away to the music whilst making those big movements and marks on their paper!

Excitingly, we have started a new PE scheme this year. This provides us with planning for our EYFS children to support developing their coordination, team work and skills. Our children are really enjoying the games and learning new skills.

This Month's Curriculum Focus: EYFS & Phonics continued































Phonics

This term our pre-school children have been focusing on learning lots of nursery rhymes. This is really important to help support their vocabulary development and understanding. It also really reinforces hearing sounds and then being able to identify words that rhyme. They have also begun to focus on one sound a week, listening carefully and playing games with words that start with that focus sound and beginning to sound talk and blend words.

















This term our Reception children have been focusing on learning their phase 2 sounds pictured below. Children use the mnemonic on the card to help them remember how to form the letter correctly. For example 'a' is 'around the astronaut and down into space'. We have also been focusing on oral blending and children beginning to blend simple words themselves. Children have also been introduced to 'tricky words'. These are words that do not follow the usual rules and cannot be sounded out.

Our Year 1 children have been busy reviewing their phase 3 and 4 learning and beginning to learn some phase 5 digraphs and trigraphs. This includes alternative sounds to the ones they have already learnt and new split digraphs. This links to what we call 'grow the code' where children learn all of the possible phonemes for particular sound to support their reading and learning the spelling rules.

Complete the code chart

 /s/ s ss c ce se st sc	 /t/ t tt tte	 /p/ p pp	 /n/ n nn kn gn	 /m/ m mm mb mn	 /d/ d dd	 /g/ g gg gu ghe gh	 /c/ c ck ch cc que	 /r/ r rr wr rh	 /h/ h
 /b/ b bb	 /f/ f ff ph	 /l/ l ll le al	 /j/ j ge dge	 /v/ v ve vv u	 /w/ w wh u	 /x/ x	 /y/ y	 /z/ z se ze zz ze	 /qu/ qu
 /ch/ ch tch ture	 /sh/ sh ti ch ssi ci si s	 /th/ th the	 /ng/ ng	 /nk/ nk	 /a/ a	 /e/ e ea	 /i/ i y	 /o/ o a au	 /u/ u o ou o-e

Complete the code chart

 /ail/ a-e ai ay a eigh ea ey ei aigh	 /eel/ y ea ee e ie i ey i-e ei e-e	 /igh/ i-e i y ie	 /oal/ ow o o-e oa oe ou	 /ool/ oo ew u ue u-e ou ui	 /yool/ u u-e ew ue	 /ool/ oo u oul	 /arl/ ar a al
 /lor/ or a aw ou ore oor al oar our or augh aur	 /lur/ er ur ir or ear	 /low/ ou ow	 /loi/ oi oy	 /lear/ ear eer ere	 /lair/ air are ear ere ar	 /lzh/ si su ge	 /ler/ er a or our re r

Our Year 2 children have been securing their Phase 5 knowledge of sounds. They will then be moving onto Bridge to Spelling where their Phase 5 knowledge will support them with developing their spelling and learning the spelling rules.

Our KS2 children who need additional support with filling gaps in their phonics knowledge are supported through Catch Up sessions. These are quick 10-15 minute sessions based on revisiting sounds that children haven't secured. Children are supported to identify these sounds in words during reading and also provided with support to spell words containing these sounds.

Miss Amis